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Docket No.: SON-2864
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Takeo Eguchi et al.

Application No.: 10/730,135

Confirmation No.: 3183

Filed: December 9, 2003

Art Unit: 2861

For: LIQUID DISCHARGE DEVICE AND LIQUID
DISCHARGE METHOD

Examiner: D.L. Nguyen

FOURTH INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the additional references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. This case is pending and a Notice of Allowance is believed to be forthcoming.

Therefore, this will certify that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Specifically, these documents were noted in an Office Action in connection with the corresponding EP application, dated April 25, 2006, a copy of which is provided. That document will indicate the perceived relevance of the cited documents to the subject matter of the EP claims.

If a Notice of Allowance is issued prior to receipt of these documents, please treat this paper as an IDS filed prior to the payment of an issue fee, with a petition for consideration and the requisite fee. Authorization is provided to charge the deposit account of the undersigned if the allowance precedes the filing of this document.

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for the petition fee if needed, and charge any additional fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0013 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

Dated: May 19, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/730,135
				Filing Date	December 9, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Takeo Eguchi
				Art Unit	2861
				Examiner Name	D.L. Nguyen
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	SON-2864

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	AA				

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
	BA	EP 1 167 038	01-02-2002	Eastman Kodak Company		✓
	BB	EP 1 568 505	08-31-2005	Sony Corporation		✓
	BC	EP 1 419 887	05-19-2004	Sony Corporation		✓
	BD	EP 1 555 125	10-17-2003	Sony Corporation		✓

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
	CA	EPO Search Report mailed April 25, 2006	

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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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